

LIBRARY

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

oooooooooooooooo



M E D I C A L O F F I C E R ' S R E P O R T.

For the year ended 31st December, 1944.

oooooooooooooooo

With compliments.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
100 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
100 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
100 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK

August, 1945.

To: The Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is an abbreviated report on the health of the population and the sanitary condition of the district for the year 1944.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	45,948
Population	...	...	...	...	...	13,870
Number of inhabited houses			...	...		3,446
Rateable Value		...	...	...	...	57,581
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...				£241

Birth Rate

275 births were registered in the year, 147 males and 128 females. Of these 22 were illegitimate. There were only 4 Still Births.

Birth Rate 19.83

Death Rate.

130 deaths were registered during the year, as compared with 153 in 1943. Of these 66 were males and 64 females. 26 people died from some form of Cancer, 31 from Disease of the Heart or circulatory system, and 8 from disease of the Respiratory system. There was only one death from Influenza and one from Puerperal Sepsis.

Death Rate 9.37

Infantile Mortality.

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age.

Rate per 1,000 births 50.91

Infectious Disease.

More cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year than in 1943, but there was no serious epidemic in any one place. 46 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, 43 of which were removed to the Gorse Hill Isolation Hospital. 15 cases of Diphtheria were notified. Measles was again prevalent, and 167 cases were registered. Only 12 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 43 in 1943. 1 case only of Puerperal Sepsis was notified.

Tuberculosis.

32 cases of this disease were notified during the year, as compared with 26 in 1943. 18 of these were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 of glands in the neck and spinal disease. Only 2 deaths from the disease were registered. There has been a steadily increasing figure of notifications of Tuberculosis since the commencement of the war.

Water Supply.

Excepting part of a Parish supplied by wells, where there was a shortage of water during August, the supply of the district has been satisfactory, both in quantity and quality.

The number and results of analyses of samples of water taken during the year are set forth in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

The water of the public supply has no plumbo-solvent action.

2640 houses in the district receive their supply from the public mains. In addition, 118 houses are supplied from mains privately owned. There are now no stand pipes owned by the Local Authority. It is estimated that some 10,600 persons are supplied from the public water mains and 500 from mains privately owned.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The systems at Cricklade and Furton continue to prove satisfactory, but the effluent from the Wootton Bassett system has been unsatisfactory, owing to the fact of the system having to deal with an excess of material from the U.S.A. Army Laundry, which was stationed at Wootton Bassett.

Milk

The number of Dairies now on the Register is 326. 168 inspections were carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant.

A number of new cowsheds, milking parlours and dairies were erected during the year, and structural alterations for improvement carried out at 25 registered premises.

For 7 months of the year samples of milk were taken by your Inspector on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture under the National Milk Testing Scheme. This entailed 153 visits to Dairies.

The samples of pasteurised milk taken during the year from the only Pasteurising Plant in the district, proved that this process had been satisfactorily carried out.

Meat

The examination of carcasses for human consumption remains one of the most important duties of your Sanitary Inspector, and I should like to state here that his knowledge of this subject and the efficiency of the work done by him not only add to his credit, but is of very considerable importance to the health of this district. This work necessitated some 214 visits, examinations by him, and details are set out in his report.

Salvage and Scavenging.

Scavenging of the district continues to be satisfactorily carried out. The amount of salvageable material collected during the year has not been so great as in 1943. The total sum realised was £797.17s.1d compared with £931 in the previous year.

It is pleasing to note that as the result of the appeal by Mr. Churchill for books for the Forces, some 44,000 were collected. 11,728 were sent to the Forces, the remainder to Hospitals and Libraries or for re-pulping.

Housing.

5 new houses were erected during the year.

All housing repairs were dealt with under the Public Health Act of 1936. Owing to the shortage of labour and building materials, considerable difficulty was experienced in carrying out the necessary repair work.

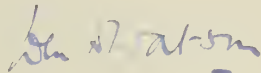
Rural Housing Survey.

It was only possible for a certain amount of preliminary clerical work to be carried out in connection with this survey during the year. As the survey has to be completed in the shortest possible time and owing to the great amount of work entailed, I feel sure, and I fear, that your Inspectors will be unable to devote as much time as

they usually do to other work in the district.

I append the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Council Offices,
Wootton Bassett, Wilts.
21st April, 1945.

To: Dr. J. N. Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade and
Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended
31st December, 1944.

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	4
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	1

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

(1)(a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	62
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	199
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	38

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	37
--	-----	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29128511>

(i) By owners	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	2
Number of cases of overcrowding abated					nil
Number of visits made		4

Number of nuisances discovered	50
" " " abated	52
" " inspections made	189

(4)

Result of analyses of water samples:

	Unfit for drinking purposes.	Fit for drinking purposes.
Public Supplies:		
Chemical		1
Bacteriological		5
Private Supplies:		
Chemical	1	
Bacteriological	8	6

Number of visits made re water supplies:

In connection with public supplies	5
" " " private "	186

Number of water connections made to houses from a water main as the result of informal notices	3
--	---

The samples taken from the public supplies proved the water to be of a very high degree of purity.

A shortage of water occurred in August at Bradenstoke, when the majority of the wells ran dry. The work of laying a temporary water main over ground was put in hand, but before it was completed the wells recovered, and owing to the danger from frost to an over-land pipe line, that part of the main which had been laid was taken up

Inspection and supervision of food.

Milk.

Number of Dairies on Register	326
" " Producers on Register (included in above figure)	322
" " inspections made	168

3 new cowsheds, 5 milking parlours and 3 dairies were built during the year. Structural alterations were carried out at 25 cowsheds and dairies. 17 farms where milk production was carried on were connected to the public water mains. Samples of milk were taken under the National Milk Testing Scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture from February to September. To carry out this work, 153 visits were made during the period.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 to 1941.

Number of Pasteurising Plants	1
" " Pasteurised Milk samples taken	12
" " Accredited Milk Producers	61
" " T.T. Milk Producers	12
" " inspections of Pasteurising Plant	12
Percentage of Accredited Milk Producers in the district	18.94
Percentage of T.T. Milk Producers in the District	3.73

One sample of Pasteurised Milk was taken per month, and all the samples proved on examination that the milk had been adequately pasteurised.

Meat.

All killing (except a very small number of casualty killings) and dressing of animals for sale for human food were carried out at a slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food.

Number of visits to and inspections made at the above slaughterhouse	219
Number of visits made to other premises	6

Examinations were made of the carcase and organs of every animal killed in the district for sale for human consumption during the year. In order that this complete examination might be carried out, visits had to be made to the slaughterhouse at any time between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Animals killed and carcasses inspected.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No of animals killed	1	16702	5	23	16731
No. of carcasses examined	1	16702	7	23	16733

Condemned Meat.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
<u>Condemned for Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	11	-	-	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	71	-	-	71
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	0.42	-	-	0.49
<u>Condemned for Diseases other than Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	17	2	1	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	600	1	12	614
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	100.0	3.69	42.86	56.52	3.79

Details and weight of condemned meat.

	Tons, cwts, qrs, lbs.			
Beef		3	23	
Veal	15	-	12	
Pork and Bacon	6	1	19	
Mutton			24	
Offals	11	3	10	
	1	15	2	4

	Tons, cwts, qrs, lbs.				Percentage of the total of condemned meat.
Condemned for Tuberculosis	12	0	7		33.94
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	1	3	1	25	66.06

Towards the end of the year an arrangement was made with the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Surgeon for this area, whereby cases of Congenital Tuberculosis found in calves when examinations were being carried out at the slaughterhouse, were reported to him. The markings, breed (where possible), the market coding and number, and description of glands affected and lesions, were reported. Unfortunately, the labels bearing the market coding and number of the calf, which are paper labels stuck on to the hide of the calf when the calves are graded at the markets, are frequently not available at the time of killing, the labels having been either rubbed off or become detached due to weather conditions. When this happens, unless the calf affected is the only one of a particular breed in the consignment, no information can be given to the Veterinary Surgeon and therefore nothing can be done to trace the dam of the calf.

For comparative purposes, I give below the number of calves killed in the district for human consumption during the years 1940 to 1944 and the percentage of calves affected with Tuberculosis. The figures are particularly given for calves, as the number of other animals killed in the district for human consumption since January, 1940, have been very small.

It will be noticed that, excepting the year 1941, the percentage of calves affected with Tuberculosis has been decreasing.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of calves affected with Tuberculosis	Percentage of calves affected with Tuberculosis
1940	14,095	102	0.72
1941	13,588	116	0.85
1942	15,190	104	0.68
1943	15,293	90	0.59
1944	16,702	82	0.49

Other Food.

Details of tinned and other food condemned during the year are as follows:

	<u>Tins</u>
Stewed Steak	2
Party Loaf	1
Chopped Ham	8
Pork Luncheon Meat	8
Prem	4
Mor	4
Tang	1
Salmon	3
Filchards	21
Sardines	2
Herrings	12
Tomatoes	1
Peas	2
Beans	10
Plums	1
Marmalade	1
Soups	2
Evaporated Milk	16
	<u>99</u>
	lbs.
Hams	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Boiled Ham	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bath chops	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Butter	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine	6
Cheese	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	532
	<u>674$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

All condemned food found suitable for animal feeding stuffs was utilised for that purpose.

Knackers Yard.

There is one Knackers yard in the district, but no business has been carried on at the premises for a long time and the licence was not renewed this year.

Factories Act.

No. of Factories on Register	61
" " inspections made	12

Infectious Diseases.

No. of rooms disinfected	41
" " visits made re inquiries and disinfection	45
" " infectious cases removed to Isolation Hospital	57

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Six licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued during the year. No nuisances were created on these sites.

No. of visits re tents, vans and sheds	24
--	----

Public Cleansing and Salvage

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour, one "Dennis" 7 cub. yard refuse lorry being used for this purpose. The collection of refuse and salvageable waste materials has been entirely satisfactory, no complaint having been received throughout the year.

Refuse was disposed of by tipping at Ashton Keynes, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett. Late in the year the Ashton Keynes tip was filled up, and as further tipping ground was not available the lorry brings the refuse collected at Ashton Keynes to Wootton Bassett on its return home to Wootton Bassett.

House refuse is collected weekly from the houses in the more thickly populated parts of the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett. Refuse other than ashes, and salvageable waste materials are collected once per month, from houses in the remainder of the district. Separate collections of salvageable waste materials are carried out in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett twice per month.

Refuse and Salvage Collection Costs - Financial year 1st April, 1944, to 31st March, 1945.

Cost of Refuse and Salvage Collections	£1,285. 0. 7
Receipts - refuse and salvage	693. 15. 5
Cost of Refuse and Salvage Collection to General Rate Fund	591. 5. 2
Cost of Refuse and Salvage Collection per house	s 3/5. 18d
Cost of Refuse and Salvage Collection per head of population	10. 23d.

Running cost of refuse lorry per mile 8.047d

Miles per gallon 6.755

Salvageable Materials
Year ended 31st December, 1944.

	Collected during the year			Sold			Receipts from sales.		
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	64	1		64	11		443.	19.	9
Scrap iron and tins	51	8	-	106	8		159.	11.	7
Non-ferrous metals		12			14		10.	4.	4
Textiles	9	3		8	17		118.	15.	8
Rubber	2	14		3	11		8.	18.	1
Bones	7	14		7	14		36.	9.	4
Fats	2	19		2	19		19.	18.	4
	138	11	-	194	14		797.	17.	1

A "Book Drive" was held from 17th January to 31st, and outstanding success attended the effort; resulting in the collection of 44,778 books. Following Mr. Churchill's appeal a local "Books for the Forces Drive" was held on November 8th. Books were allocated from these drives as follows:

Forces	11,728
Libraries	615
Children's Hospitals and Hostels	570
Rare Books	35
For pulping	33,403
	<u>46,354</u>

No. of visits re public cleansing and salvage 336

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The premises found to be rat infested by the survey made in 1943 have been dealt with, together with premises complained of during 1944. A few of the business owners contracted either with the pest department of the Wilts War Agricultural Committee or a servicing company. Baiting and poisoning of rats at the premises was carried out by a man employed part time by the Council.

No. of visits re enquiries and baiting 275

Petroleum Act.

No. of Licences issued to store petroleum	33
" " " " " " carbide	4
" " " " " " petroleum and carbide	4

Petroleum is stored in underground tanks at all places, excepting two.

Miscellaneous Sanitary Matters.

No. of miscellaneous sanitary visits 61

214 visits were made during the year in connection with matters pertaining to A.R.P. and Civil Defence.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.